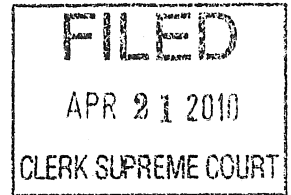


IN THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA



IN THE MATTER OF
ADOPTION OF ELECTRONIC
DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT
SYSTEM RULES FOR PILOT
PROJECT IN PLYMOUTH
COUNTY

SUPERVISORY ORDER

After years of planning, the judicial branch is testing an electronic document management system (EDMS), a system that enables the electronic filing of, storage of, and access to court documents. The test of this system is presently limited to Plymouth County. The limited scope of this test is intended to allow time for court staff and users to identify and address system and procedural issues as they arise. The project management team believes it is time to expand the use of this system in Plymouth County to all persons who seek to file cases and documents in Plymouth County. To govern this process, the court approves the attached Rules for Electronic Document Management. Until further notice of this court, these rules shall apply to records, actions, and cases filed in the Plymouth County District Court only.

These rules are not new. They are the latest version of the proposed rules for EDMS first released to the public on January 11, 2007. On that date, the court also solicited public comment to the proposed rules. After a nearly four-month comment period, the court held a public hearing that involved oral presentations from a variety of groups interested in the rules. Accordingly, on June 10, 2008, in response to the feedback received from the public, the supreme court issued a public notice announcing certain revisions to the proposed rules. That public notice declared that the proposed rules would "eventually be the final version of these rules subject only to modifications that may be necessary to conform the rules to any technical requirements that may arise during the system's development"

In the intervening twenty months, many technical and developmental issues have indeed arisen. In addition, other issues have become apparent in

the initial weeks of the Plymouth County pilot project. Resolving some of these issues required additional revisions in the proposed rules for EDMS in order to conform the rules to the technical requirements of the system. The committee charged with guiding the testing and implementation of EDMS has recommended that the court approve such revisions. The committee further recommended that the court approve the proposed rules as revised for limited use in the Plymouth County District Court only.

The rules approved today are likely not the final version that will eventually govern statewide use of EDMS. They are subject to further revisions as the testing and implementation of EDMS continues.

In addition, the court approves the protected information form and the small claims forms as shown in the attached document. Like the proposed rules, the protected information form and the small claims forms are for use in the Plymouth County District Court only until further order of this court.

The court also issues an amended version of the General Commentary on Electronic Filing Rules, the purpose of which is to assist those who use the court system in understanding the general function and purpose of some of these new rules.

Because these rules are temporary and subject to limited application they shall not be published in the Iowa Court Rules.

Dated this 21st day of April, 2010.

THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA

By Marsha Ternus
Marsha K. Ternus, Chief Justice